

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 215229

EMBASSY PLEASE PASS CONGRESSMAN DIGGS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, GV

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MATERIAL FOR CONGRESSMAN DIGG'S TRIP TO
CONAKRY, AUGUST 25 TO AUGUST 28

1. FOLLOWING BRIEFING BY DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AUGUST 23,
CONGRESSMAN DIGGS REQUESTED THAT FOLLOWING INFO BE CABLED
TO BRUSSELS FOR HIS ARRIVAL.

2. OVERVIEW

SINCE INDEPENDENCE IN 1958, US/GUINEAN RELATIONS HAVE
RANGED FROM CLOSE COOPERATION, ESPECIALLY IN THE AREA OF
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, TO PERIODS OF SERIOUS STRAIN.
AMERICAN AID TO GUINEA WAS SUBSTANTIAL UNTIL 1966, WHEN
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A CRISIS IN US/GUINEAN RELATIONS AND A NEW US AID POLICY
FAVORING REGIONAL OVER BILATERAL AID RESULTED IN A SHARP
CURTAILMENT OF AMERICAN ASSISTANCE TO GUINEA. FROM 1962
TO 1964 AMERICAN AID TOTALED ABOUT DOLS 40 MILLION, WHEREAS
ONLY DOLS 1 MILLION WAS PROVIDED IN 1967. THE PEACE CORPS
WAS EXPELLED IN 1966, THE SAME YEAR IN WHICH THE AMERICAN
AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY STAFF WERE PLACED UNDER HOUSE

ARREST FOLLOWING THE KIDNAPPING OF PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI FROM A PAN AM PLANE IN ACCRA.

SOME IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS DID TAKE PLACE IN 1968, BUT THIS NEW ATMOSPHERE OF COOPERATION WAS PARTIALLY DISSIPATED BY THE DISCOVERY OF AN ANTI-REGIME PLOT IN 1969. THE FOLLOWING YEAR, INCARCERATION OF MANY GUINEANS AND FOREIGN NATIONALS FOLLOWING THE PORTUGUESE ATTACK ON CONAKRY SIGNALLED A FURTHER DOWNTURN IN RELATIONS. THE US MISSION WAS REDUCED IN THE FACE OF GUINEAN HARASSMENT, AND TIGHT RESTRICTIONS WERE IMPOSED ON THE ACTIVITIES OF REMAINING DIPLOMATS. THE GUINEAN GOVERNMENT CHARGED THE UNITED STATES WITH SUBVERSION AND MEDDLING. US MEMBERSHIP IN NATO AND A REFUSAL TO CONDEMN PORTUGAL IN THE UNITED NATIONS, CONTRIBUTED TO THE STRAIN.

BY 1975, PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WERE EVIDENCED BY CHANGES IN DOMESTIC POLICIES. THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS BEGAN WITH FOREIGN NATIONALS CHARGED WITH COMPLICITY IN THE 1970 ATTACK, AND THE RETURN OF 20 TO 30,000 GUINEAN EXILES COINCIDE WITH A LOOSENING OF AUTHORITARIAN RULE.

GUINEAN RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN CLOSE, BUT CORRECT. SINCE, INDEPENDENCE, GUINEA HAS DEPENDED ON THE SOVIET UNION FOR MILITARY AID.
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MODEST DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, AIMED INITIALLY AT PRESTIGE PROJECTS, WAS POORLY CONCEIVED AND PROBABLY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TOURE'S EFFORTS TO KEEP THE DOOR OPEN TO WESTERN GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT. RECENT INDICATIONS POINT TO A DIMINISHING SOVIET INFLUENCE IN GUINEA AS EVIDENCED BY THE CESSATION OF SOVIET RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS FROM CONAKRY IN 1977.

3. INCREASING INTERNATIONAL CONTACT

STILL A STAUNCH SOCIALIST, AND RELIANT UPON SOVIET SECURITY ASSISTANCE, PRESIDENT TOURE IN THE PAST FEW YEARS HAS ATTEMPTED TO MEND FENCES WITH NEIGHBORS, AND TO REASSERT HIS STATURE AS AN INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN LEADER. TOURE'S RECENT MEETING AT MONROVIA WITH THE SENEGALESE AND IVORIAN HEADS OF STATE HAS FACILITATED THE REGULARIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THOSE STATES, AND REDUCED THE TENSIONS WHICH HAVE EXISTED IN FRENCH SPEAKING WEST AFRICA SINCE INDEPENDENCE. LIKEWISE, THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH IN JULY, 1978 AT THE OAU KHARTOUM SUMMIT DEMONSTRATED A DESIRE TO DEAL MODERATELY WITH THE QUESTION OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TRULY NON-ALIGNED POSITION

FOR AFRICAN STATES.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS

PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY, DESPITE PRESIDENT TOURE'S PROFESSED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE, IS PERHAPS THE MOST SENSITIVE ISSUE CONFRONTING US/GUINEAN RELATIONS. THE GUINEAN RECORD HAS IMPROVED OVER THE PAST YEAR WITH THE RELEASE OF A NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, THE RETURN OF MANY FORMER EXILES AND A VISIT BY A DELEGATION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS. HOWEVER, THERE ARE STILL A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT INDIVIDUALS INCARCERATED IN CONAKRY FOR ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN THE 1970 INVASION. DICK MOOSE HAD A LONG AND FRANK DIS-
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CUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITH SEKOU TOURE LAST MONTH, WHICH FURTHER SENSITIZED THE GUINEAN LEADERSHIP TO THE IMPORTANCE WE PLACE ON THIS ISSUE. THE US LOOKS FORWARD TO CONTINUING PRISONER RELEASES, AND CONSONANT WITH OUR CONCERN FOR THE EXTENSION OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS TO THE PEOPLES OF ALL NATIONS, IMPROVED HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN GUINEA WILL BE CONSIDERED IN FORMULATING OUR BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE.

5. US ASSISTANCE

AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO GUINEA IS CONCENTRATED IN PL-480 PROGRAMS, AND THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PROJECT AT TINDOU, FOULAYA AND FARANAH. THE PROJECT, VALUED AT A TOTAL OF DOLS 5 MILLION, AIMS TO ASSIST THE GOG TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICES. ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT BEHIND SCHEDULE, THE PROJECT INVOLVES THE TRAINING OF SEVEN GUINEAN AGRICULTURAL STUDENTS IN US UNIVERSITIES. THEY WILL STAFF THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION AT FOULAYA, AND THE AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL AT FARANAH. THE PROJECT'S BENEFITS WILL FLOW VIA IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES AND TRAINED INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL BE WORKING DIRECTLY WITH THE RURAL POOR.

PL-480 TITLE I ASSISTANCE TO GUINEA IN FY 78 TOTALED APPROXIMATELY DOLS 5.5 MILLION, WITH A SLIGHTLY HIGHER INCREMENT PROPOSED FOR 1979. IN 1978, OVER DOLS 6 MILLION IN TITLE II EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE WAS PROVIDED BY THE UNITED STATES THROUGH THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM.

6. US INVESTMENT

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AMERICAN PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN GUINEA IS CONCENTRATED IN THE BAUXITE INDUSTRY. A CONSORTIUM OF AMERICAN COMPANIES LED BY ALCOA AND MARTIN-MARIETTA PARTICIPATE IN THIS DOLS 275 MILLION PROJECT, WHICH SUPPLIES OVER HALF OF

GUINEA'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE INCOME. GUINEA RECEIVED DOLS 55 MILLION FROM 7 MILLION TONS EXPORTED IN 1977. REYNOLDS ALUMINUM HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN A NEW BAUXITE PROJECT AT DABOLA. IT IS ENVISIONED THAT THE DABOLA PROJECT WILL BE SOME DOLS 600 MILLION, IN WHICH THE GUINEAN GOVERNMENT WOULD RETAIN 50 PERCENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, WHILE THE BALANCE WOULD BE DIVIDED AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS OF YUGOSLAVIA, ALGERIA, AND NIGERIA, ALL OF WHICH WOULD BE BUYERS OF ALUMINA. REYNOLDS PARTICIPATION IS SOUGHT TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL KNOW HOW AND MANAGEMENT. U.S. STEEL IS CONSIDERING INVESTMENT IN THE MIFERGUI-NIMBA IRON ORE PROJECT, WHICH WOULD INVOLVE A TOTAL INVESTMENT AMONG BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC INVESTORS (INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENTS OF LIBERIA AND GUINEA), OF SOME DOLS 850 MILLION. U.S. STEEL'S PARTICIPATION, HOWEVER, IS PENDING COMPLETION OF FEASIBILITY STUDIES.

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